

House Resolution 2193

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Abdul-Salaam of the 74th, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, Abrams of the 84th, Morgan of the 39th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia and this country mourn the loss of one of this nation's
3 champions for minorities with the passing of Mr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks on April 15,
4 2010; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Hooks was born on January 31, 1925, in Memphis, Tennessee, a beloved
6 son of Robert and Bessie Hooks; and

7 WHEREAS, he attended LeMoyne College, earned a law degree from DePaul University,
8 and served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Army,
9 valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during World War II and rising
10 to the rank of staff sergeant; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Hooks was appointed to the bench of the Shelby County Criminal Court
12 in Tennessee, making him the first African American criminal court judge in the state's
13 history, and became actively involved in the National Association for the Advancement of
14 Colored People (NAACP) in the 1950's; and

15 WHEREAS, after Mr. Hooks became the NAACP's executive director in 1977, he
16 proclaimed that the Civil Rights movement was not dead and that the NAACP would
17 continue on in the fight for equality and justice, whether it was in the form of peaceful
18 protests or through the court system; and

19 WHEREAS, he helped establish the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change, a public
20 policy research center at the University of Memphis, and was awarded the Presidential Medal
21 of Freedom in 2007 by President George W. Bush; and

22 WHEREAS, a gifted orator, Mr. Hooks earned a standing ovation at the NAACP's 100th
23 anniversary convention in New York when he declared the fight must continue until "justice
24 runs down like waters and righteousness as a mighty stream," the glass ceiling has been
25 shattered and there is no downsizing, and until justice, righteousness, hopes, equality, and
26 opportunity are birthrights for all Americans; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Hooks was united in love and marriage to his wife Frances for 59
28 wonderful years and was blessed with a remarkable daughter, Patricia; and

29 WHEREAS, he was a great defender of equality and justice, he made this world a better
30 place in which to live, and his legacy and influence will flourish for generations to come.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. Benjamin Lawson
33 Hooks and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Benjamin
36 Lawson Hooks.